DPI/652

DISARMAMENT FACT SHEETS

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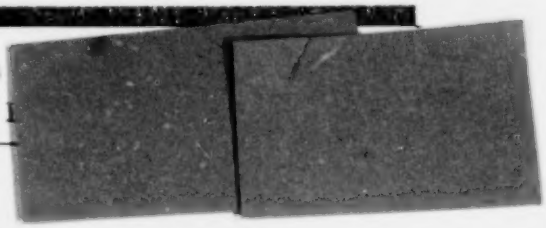

Fact Sheet No. 11 DPI/652

GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS ON DISARMAMENT -- 1979 SESSION

At its thirty-fourth (1979) session, the General Assembly adopted a total of 39 resolutions on disarmament-related matters, seeking to encourage progress in negotiations and to promote implementation of the measures called for in the Final Document of the 1978 special session on disarmament. The Assembly decided to proclaim the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade; adopted a Declaration on International Co-operation for Disarmament; initiated studies on several disarmament issues, and heard China's announcement that it would take its seat as a member of the Committee on Disarmament at the 1980 session.

Following is a summary of the resolutions.

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Disarmament Decade: Expressing disappointment that the purposes of the Disarmament Decade of the 1970s had not been realized, the Assembly decided to declare the 1980s as "the Second Disarmament Decade". It directed the Disarmament Commission to prepare elements of a draft resolution on the Decade for adoption at the 35th (1980) session. The resolution is to include "an indication of targets during the Disarmament Decade for accomplishing the major objective and goals of disarmament, as well as ways and means of mobilizing world public opinion in this regard".

/Resolution 34/75, adopted without a vote./

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Disarmament Week: Emphasizing the importance of "wide and continued mobilization of world public opinion in support of halting and reversing the arms race, especially the nuclear arms race in all its aspects", the Assembly noted with satisfaction the reports of the Secretary-General on measures taken

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by governmental and non-governmental organizations to foster disarmament (A/34/457 and Add.1 and 2) and elements of a model programme for disarmament week, to be observed annually during the week starting 24 October (A/34/436).

/Resolution 34/83 I, adopted without a vote./

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Declaration on International Co-operation for Disarmament: The Declaration, proposed by Czechoslovakia, includes a call upon all States to conduct disarmament negotiations with a view to"early achievement of a decisive breakthrough in the sphere of disarmament". It asks States to exert efforts to strengthen international peace and security, build confidence among States, and set in motion the security system provided for in the UN Charter; to refrain from seeking military superiority and repudiate all concepts based on military intimidation and "policies of acting from a position of strength"; to use the educational system, mass media and all other appropriate institutions to ensure that world opinion exerts a positive influence on Government efforts to resolve disarmament issues; and "to prevent and prohibit propaganda for war and the arms race and the dissemination of views asserting their necessity or usefulness on political, economic or other grounds".

/Resolution 34/88, adopted by 116 to none, with 27 abstentions./

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Nuclear Disarmament: Reaffirming that "all nuclear-weapon States, in particular, those with the most important arsenals, bear a special responsibility" for achieving nuclear disarmament, the Assembly stressed that priority in disarmament negotiations should be given to nuclear weapons. It requested the Committee on Disarmament "as a matter of high priority" to initiate negotiations with the participation of all nuclear-weapon States on the cessation of the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament.

/Resolution 34/83 J, adopted by 120 to 2 (France, USA), with 19 abstentions./

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SALT : The Assembly while noting that it had not been possible for the SALT II Treaty "to go beyond certain limitations which, taken together, permit considerable increments both quantitatively and qualitatively, in relation to the levels of "existing nuclear arsenals, nevertheless welcomed the US/USSR agreement to the effect, inter alia, of "continuing to pursue negotiations, in accordance with the principle of equality and equal security, on measures for the further limitation and reduction", quantitatively and qualitatively, of strategic arms. Furthermore, the Assembly stated, the Treaty constitutes "a vital element for the continuation and progress of the negotiations between the two States possessing the most important arsenals of nuclear weapons". The Assembly expressed its trust that the Treaty will enter into force at an early date, and that the SALT III negotiations will begin promptly thereafter.

The Assembly welcomed the US Soviet statement of 18 June 1979 that they would seek "significant and substantial reductions in the numbers of strategic offensive arms" and "qualitative limitations on strategic offensive arms, including restrictions on the development, testing and deployment of new types of strategic offensive arms and on the modernization of existing strategic offensive arms".

The SALT question, dealt with up to now under the item concerning general and complete disarmament, will be considered at the next session under the separate agenda item, "Strategic arms limitation talks".

/Resolution 34/87 F, adopted without a vote: the paragraph referring to increases of nuclear arsenals permitted by SALT II was approved by 128 to none, with 12 abstentions./

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Nuclear Weapon Test Ban: The Assembly reiterated its "grave concern" that nuclear weapon testing continues unabated, against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States. It said a treaty to prohibit "all nuclear test explosions by all States for all Time" is vital for the prevention of both vertical and horizontal proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The Committee on Disarmament was requested to "initiate negotiations on such a treaty, as a matter of the highest priority". The Assembly called on the three nuclear-weapon States which have been negotiating on a test ban since 1977 (United Kingdom, United States and USSR) to seek a positive conclusion of their negotiations in time for consideration at the next CD session, which begins on 5 February 1980.

Governments are invited to contribute to development of national and international co-operative measures to detect seismic events, aimed at setting up a global verification of a comprehensive test ban treaty.

/Resolution 34/73, adopted by 137 to none, with 2 abstentions. All five nuclear-weapon States were among 13 countries which abstained in a separate vote on the paragraph requesting the CD to initiate negotiations on such a treaty. China and France abstained on the resolution as a whole./

In a separate decision, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a study on the question of a comprehensive nuclear test ban, as recommended by the Advisory Board on Disarmament Studies and by the Secretary-General himself. The study is to be completed in time to be transmitted to the CD in the spring of 1980.

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Non-Stationing of Nuclear Weapons: The Assembly considered the non-stationing of nuclear weapons on the territories of States where there are no such weapons at present "would constitute a step towards the larger objective of the subsequent complete withdrawal of nuclear weapons from the territories of other States, thus contributing to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons, leading eventually to the total elimination of nuclear weapons".

The Assembly "believes it is necessary to examine possibilities for an international agreement" on the subject. Views of States on this question will be presented in a report to the 35th (1980) session.

/Resolution 34/87 C, adopted by 99 to 18, with 19 abstentions. Of the nuclear-weapon States, only the USSR voted in favour./

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Ban on Fissionable Material for Weapons: The Committee on Disarmament was requested to pursue its consideration of "an adequately verified cessation and prohibition of the production of fissionable material for nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices". The General Assembly said the cessation of production of fissionable material for weapons and progressive conversion of stocks to peaceful uses would be a significant step towards halting and reversing the nuclear arms race.

/Resolution 34/84 D, adopted by 118 to 9, with 12 abstentions. The United States and United Kingdom voted in favour, while France abstained and the USSR voted against. China did not participate in the vote./

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Security Assurances: Under agenda items on strengthening the guarantees of security of non-nuclear-weapon States, and strengthening their security against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons, the Assembly adopted three resolutions. All three recognized that "effective measures to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons can constitute a positive contribution to the prevention of the spread of nuclear weapons". The resolutions differ in their approach to the idea of an international convention to provide such assurances.

Resolution 34/84, sponsored by socialist and other countries, requested the Committee on Disarmament to continue negotiations on the matter in 1980 on a priority basis "with a view to their early conclusion with the elaboration of a convention". Resolution 34/85, sponsored by Pakistan and Mali, recommended that the CD should "conclude effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons during its 1980 session, taking into account the widespread support for the conclusion of an international convention and giving consideration to any other proposals designed to secure the same objective". Resolution 34/86, proposed by the United States, requested the CD "to continue its efforts at its next session with a view to reaching agreement" on strengthening the security of non-nuclear-weapon States. It noted the statements that the nuclear-weapon States have made on assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States, but did not refer to the idea of a convention.

/Resolution 34/84, adopted by 114 to 1 (Albania), with 25 abstentions.
Resolution 34/85, adopted by 120 to none, with 22 abstentions.
Resolution 34/86, adopted by 110 to 1 (Albania), with 29 abstentions./

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Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone of Latin America: The Assembly welcomed the fact that the five nuclear-weapon States have now ratified Additional Protocol II of the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America (Treaty of Tlatelolco). The Protocol is the first disarmament-related agreement in which all of the nuclear-weapon Powers have joined. Under the Protocol, they agreed to fully respect the statute of denuclearization of Latin America in respect of warlike purposes; not to contribute in any way to the performance of acts violating the Treaty; and not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against Parties to the Treaty.

/Resolution 34/74, adopted without a vote./

The Assembly also asked the United States and France to ratify Protocol I of the Treaty. Protocol I provides for application of the Treaty in territories of the Latin American zone for which the Parties are internationally responsible. It has been ratified by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. The United States and France have signed but have not yet ratified the Protocol.

[Resolution 34/71, adopted without a vote]

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Denuclearization of Africa: The Assembly strongly reiterated its call upon all States to respect the continent of Africa and surrounding islands as a nuclear-weapon-free zone - an objective proclaimed by the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in its 1964 Declaration on the Denuclearisation of Africa.

Referring to a United States' report of satellite observation of an apparent nuclear explosion on 22 September 1979 in an area of the Indian Ocean and South Atlantic including the southern part of Africa, the Assembly expressed alarm that South Africa might have detonated a nuclear device, and "vigorously condemned" the reported explosion. It condemned any nuclear collaboration with South Africa and requested the Security Council to take enforcement action to prevent South Africa from further endangering international peace and security through its acquisition of nuclear weapons . At the same time it demanded that South Africa submit all its nuclear installations to inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

[Resolution 34/76 A, adopted by 128 to none, with 11 abstentions]

In another resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to follow the situation in regard to the reported nuclear explosion, and to prepare with the assistance of appropriate experts "a comprehensive report on South Africa's plan and capability in the nuclear field". The report is to be submitted at the 35th (1980) Assembly session.

[Resolution 34/76 B, adopted without a vote]

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Israeli Nuclear Armament: Alarmed by "increasing information and evidence regarding Israel's activities aiming at the acquisition and development of nuclear weapons", the Assembly appealed to all States "to put an end to any co-operation with Israel which may assist it in acquiring and developing nuclear weapons and also to dissuade corporations, institutions and individuals" from any such co-operation. It called on Israel to submit all its nuclear facilities to IAEA inspection, strongly condemned any attempt by Israel to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East, and requested the Security Council to adopt appropriate measures to ensure implementation of the relevant resolutions concerning Israeli nuclear armament.

The Assembly also requested an expert study "on the Israeli nuclear armament" to be submitted at the 36th (1981) session.

[Resolution 34/89, adopted by 97 to 10, with 38 abstentions]

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Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone: Recalling past resolutions favouring such a zone, the Assembly urged all parties directly concerned to consider taking steps to implement the proposal. It invited those countries "to declare solemnly that they will refrain on a reciprocal basis from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices"; called upon them to refrain from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons on their territory by any third party, and to place all their nuclear activities under IAEA safeguards; and invited them to declare their support for such a zone and deposit such declarations with the Security Council.

[Resolution 34/77, adopted by 136 to none, with 1 abstention (Israel)]

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South Asia Nuclear-Free Zone: The Assembly reaffirmed its endorsement, in principle, of the concept of a nuclear-free zone in South Asia, and urged "the States of South Asia and such other neighbouring non-nuclear-weapon States as may be interested to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to this objective".

[Resolution 34/78, adopted by 96 to 2 (Bhutan, India) with 40 abstentions]

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Indian Ocean Zone of Peace: The Assembly decided to convene a Conference on the Indian Ocean during 1981 at Colombo, Sri Lanka, for the implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (adopted by the Assembly in 1971). An enlarged Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean will undertake preparatory work for the Conference. The permanent members of the Security Council and major maritime users of the Indian Ocean were invited to serve on the expanded committee.

[Resolution 34/80 B, adopted by 126 to none with 14 abstentions]

The Assembly said that "the continued military presence of the great Powers in the Indian Ocean, conceived in the context of great-Power rivalry, with the danger of a competitive escalation of such a military presence, gives greater urgency to the need to take practical steps for the early implementation of the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace". It urged that talks between the USSR and the United States regarding their military presence in the Indian Ocean be resumed without delay, and that they should refrain from any activity prejudicial to implementation of the Declaration.

[Resolution 34/80 A, adopted by 117 to none, with 23 abstentions]

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Strengthening of International Security: In a resolution concerning implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security, the Assembly commended the convening of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, to be held at Madrid in 1980, and expressed "the hope that it will result in further

strengthening the security and co-operation of States in Europe in all spheres, including reduction of armaments and armed forces and halting the arms race in both nuclear and conventional fields". It also commended decisions of the Havana Conference of Non-Aligned Countries on transforming the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and co-operation.

[Resolution 34/100 II adopted by 104 to 2 (Israel and USA) with 24 abstentions]

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Confidence-Building Measures: All States, the Assembly recommended, "should continue to consider arrangements for specific confidence-building measures, taking into account the specific conditions and requirements of each region". The "need and urgency of first steps to diminish the danger of armed conflicts resulting from misunderstandings or from misinterpretation of military activities" was recognized by the Assembly. "The resolution called for a comprehensive study on confidence-building measures by the Secretary-General, with the assistance of a group of qualified governmental experts, to be submitted to the 36th (1981) session of the General Assembly, with a progress report to be submitted to the Assembly's 35th (1980) session."

[Resolution 34/87 B, adopted without a vote. The paragraphs calling for a study were approved separately, with 12 abstentions]

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Chemical Weapons: The Committee on Disarmament was urged "to undertake at the beginning of its 1980 session negotiations on an agreement on the complete and effective prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and on their destruction as a matter of high priority", and was requested to report to the Assembly's 35th (1980) session on the results of its negotiations.

The CD held a number of meetings on this subject in 1979. The United States and Soviet Union, which have been negotiating bilaterally since 1976 on chemical weapons, reported to the CD on a number of points of agreement concerning an eventual treaty. They have not yet submitted a joint proposal, and many CD members have said the Committee should now proceed with its own negotiations.

[Resolution 34/72, adopted without a vote]

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Radiological Weapons: The General Assembly expressed its conviction that a convention to prohibit the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, as called for in the Final Document of the special session on disarmament, would "spare mankind from the potential dangers of the use of radioactive materials to cause destruction, damage or injury by means of the radiation produced by the decay of such material". The Assembly requested the CD "to proceed as soon as possible to achieve agreement, through negotiation, on the text of such a convention", and to report to the Assembly's 35th (1980) session. The CD has before it the text of a draft convention submitted jointly by the Soviet Union and the United States.

[Resolution 34/87 A, adopted without a vote]

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New Weapons of Mass Destruction: The CD was asked to continue negotiations "in the light of its existing priorities" with a view to preparing "a draft comprehensive agreement on the prohibition of the development and manufacture of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons and, where necessary, specific agreements on particular types of such weapons".

[Resolution 34/79, adopted by 117 to none, with 24 abstentions.]

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Excessively Injurious Weapons: The Assembly endorsed plans for a second session of the UN Conference on Prohibitions or Restrictions of Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects. The four-week session will begin on 15 September in Geneva. The Assembly noted that at the first session in September 1979, the Conference reached agreement with regard to a draft protocol banning the use of weapons causing injury by fragments not detectable by x-ray, as well as a wide measure of agreement concerning landmines and booby traps. There was also a further convergence of views on prohibition or restriction of use of incendiary weapons.

[Resolution 34/82, adopted without a vote.]

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Institutional Arrangements: The Assembly asked for an expert study on "present institutional requirements and future estimated needs in the UN management of disarmament affairs" and the "possible functions, structure and institutional framework that could meet these requirements and needs". The resolution noted "increasing demands on UN management of disarmament affairs for purposes such as the promotion, substantive preparation, implementation and control of the process of disarmament".

[Resolution 34/87 E, adopted by 121 to 9, with 9 abstentions.]

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World Disarmament Conference: The Assembly recalled its decision at the special session on disarmament that at the earliest appropriate time, a world disarmament conference should be convened with universal participation and with adequate preparation. It renewed the mandate of its Ad Hoc Committee on this question, and noted that Committee's suggestion that after the 1982 special session on disarmament, the conference be held "as soon as the necessary consensus on its convening has been reached".

[Resolution 34/81, adopted without a vote.]

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Implementation of Decisions of the Special Session: In a series of resolutions concerning implementation of the recommendations and decisions of its 1978 special session devoted to disarmament, the Assembly:

- Called upon all States to "eliminate tensions and conflicts in their relations" and proceed towards collective measures under the UN Charter for a system of international order, security and peace, concurrently with efforts at disarmament measures.

[Resolution 34/83 A, adopted without a vote.]

- Declared that the Committee on Disarmament "should become urgently and most directly involved in substantive negotiations" on priority issues, and negotiations on specific disarmament issues conducted outside the CD "should not constitute an impediment" to the CD's negotiations on such questions. CD members involved in separate negotiations were invited to bring their negotiations to a positive conclusion, without further delay for submission to the CD "and, failing this, to submit to the Committee a full report on the status of their separate negotiations and results achieved so far in order to contribute most directly" to negotiations in the CD. The CD was requested to initiate negotiations in 1980 on the comprehensive programme of disarmament.

[Resolution 34/83 B, adopted by 130 to none, with 11 abstentions]

- Endorsed the recommendations of the Disarmament Commission on elements of the comprehensive programme of disarmament, which the CD will seek to elaborate in its negotiations on the subject.

[Resolution 34/83 H, adopted without a vote]

- Urgently called upon all States, in particular nuclear-weapon States and other major military Powers, to make every effort to successfully conclude current negotiations on effective international agreements according to the priorities of the Programme of Action of the special session, and to resume or undertake negotiations on a bilateral, regional, or multilateral basis on measures agreed by consensus at the special session.

[Resolution 34/83 C, adopted without a vote]

- Decided to continue the programme of UN fellowships on disarmament, initiated by the special session to promote expertise in disarmament, particularly in developing countries. (19 fellows from 19 countries took part in the 1979 fellowship programme.)

[Resolution 34/83 D, adopted without a vote]

- After considering a preliminary report of the expert group on the technical, legal and financial implications of establishing an international satellite monitoring agency, noted the "important contribution" which satellite technology can make in monitoring disarmament agreements, and requested an in-depth study to be submitted in time for the Assembly to take a decision at its 1982 special session on disarmament.

[Resolution 34/83 E, adopted by 124 to none, with 11 abstentions]

- Stated that "a new impetus should be given to endeavours to achieve agreements to freeze, reduce or otherwise restrain, in a balanced manner, military expenditures, including adequate measures of verification satisfactory to all parties concerned"; appealed to all States, particularly those most heavily armed, "to exercise self-restraint in their military expenditures" with a view to reallocating the funds thus saved to socio-economic development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries, and requested the Disarmament Commission to identify ways of achieving agreements on restraining military expenditures.

/Resolution 34/83 F, adopted without a vote. In separate votes, a paragraph stating the need for "a satisfactory instrument for standardized reporting on the military expenditures of Member States" was approved by 127 to none, with 10 abstentions. The paragraph requesting action by the Disarmament Commission was approved by 127 to none, with 9 abstentions./

- Transmitted the views of States concerning the non-use of nuclear weapons, avoidance of nuclear war and related matters to the CD for appropriate consideration.

/Resolution 34/83 G, adopted by 112 to 16, with 14 abstentions./

- Requested the provision of resources and expertise for the successful completion of the expert study on the relationship between disarmament and development; re-emphasized that a principal aim of the study is to produce results that could guide the formulation of practical measures for reallocation of resources from military purposes to development; and appealed to Governments to make available data relevant to a meaningful completion of the study.

/Resolution 34/83 K, adopted without a vote./

- Requested the Secretary-General to provide the staff as well as necessary assistance and services needed by the CD and any subsidiary bodies it may establish.

/Resolution 34/83 L, adopted without a vote./

- Requested the Secretary-General to consult with the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) on the establishment of a United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research within the UNITAR framework, as an interim arrangement for the period until the 1982 special session on disarmament.

/Resolution 34/83 M, adopted without a vote./

The Arms Race Today: The special session reflected growing world concern over the arms race, which causes instability rather than security, impedes international co-operation and wastes resources urgently needed for development purposes.

World expenditures on military forces and armaments are estimated to have reached the level of about $400 billion a year. More and more countries on all continents are being drawn into the arms build-up, acquiring ever more sophisticated weaponry. Many developing countries are among those which have substantially increased their purchases of major weapons in recent years and the world arms trade is booming. Since 1945 millions have been killed by conventional weapons in scores of conflicts.

A main driving force of the arms race is the arms competition among the major military Powers, and its most dangerous aspect, threatening the survival of mankind, is the nuclear arms race. The expanding nuclear arsenals contain tens of thousands of nuclear weapons, with a total explosive power of more than 1 million Hiroshima bombs -- enough to destroy the world many times over.

The Final Document of the Assembly's special session warns: "Mankind is confronted with a choice: we must halt the arms race and proceed to disarmament or face annihilation".

Activities Proposed: At the special session and in the 1978 regular session, the Assembly called for a number of activities aimed at mobilizing public opinion in support of disarmament. The UN, Government and non-governmental organizations were urged to increase the dissemination of information on the arms race and efforts to halt it, and to develop programmes of education for disarmament and peace studies at all levels. Member States, the Assembly said, "should be encouraged to ensure a better flow of information with regard to the various aspects of disarmament to avoid dissemination of false and tendentious information concerning armaments".

Disarmament Week can help to create an international atmosphere conducive to practical disarmament measures. A model programme listing possible Disarmament Week activities (A/34/436) has been prepared at the Assembly's request. It includes the following suggestions:

Government Activities: The model programme suggests that Governments provide factual information to the public on arms expenditures, production and acquisition of weapons, and on their policies relating to efforts to end the arms race including their views on their own military establishments and expenditures. Disarmament Week would be an appropriate time for Governments to reaffirm support for disarmament; to ratify arms control agreements; to announce plans for reduction of military budgets or for discontinuance of weapons programmes; or to introduce peace studies in schools.

Other suggestions are that Governments consider establishing disarmament advisory committees to give citizens outside the government a voice in formulation of defence policy ... issuance of stamps on disarmament themes ... exhibitions of photographs, drawings and films on disarmament .... athletic or artistic events and competitions with Disarmament Week prizes.

Schools: During Disarmament Week, schools and universities could arrange lectures, class discussions, and film showings. Children could design and construct exhibits showing the cost of armaments in graphic terms.

Mock General Assembly sessions or arms-control negotiations could be organized. Oratorical, essay or poster contests are other possibilities. (UNICEF has prepared a special teacher's kit on disarmament.)

Media: The mass media could make a significant contribution to fostering aims of Disarmament Week, through special broadcasts and newspaper or magazine articles. The public could be invited to participate directly or by telephone in radio and TV discussions.

Non-Governmental Organizations: The essential role of non-governmental organizations is recognized by the Assembly. Many organizations plan special meetings and activities during Disarmament Week.

Since Disarmament Week begins on United Nations Day, events organized by UN associations and other groups to mark the Organization's anniversary can be used to stress the disarmament theme.

Topics: Meetings, discussions or lectures for Disarmament Week might deal with such topics as: the threat posed by nuclear weapons; economic and social consequences of the arms race; the relationship between disarmament and security; on-going arms control negotiations; redirection of military research and development as well as other resources to peaceful uses; disarmament and the New International Economic Order; the world arms trade; the arms race and developing countries; the scientific community and disarmament; trade unions and disarmament, etc.

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DISARMAMENT FACT SHEETS

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FINAL DOCUMENT: PROGRAMME OF ACTION

The Final Document adopted by consensus at the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament will be the main framework for United Nations and related disarmament pursuits in the coming years. The Programme of Action contained in the Final Document outlines measures needed to achieve nuclear and conventional disarmament. This Fact Sheet summarizes some of the Assembly's main recommendations.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The ultimate goal is "the complete elimination of nuclear weapons", which pose the greatest danger to mankind. Their use, the Assembly declared in 1978, would be "a crime against humanity".

A priority aim in the immediate future is agreement on a comprehensive nuclear weapon test ban. The Partial Test Ban Treaty of 1963 ended the atmospheric and underwater tests of the Soviet Union, United Kingdom and United States, but underground testing has continued and the other two nuclear-weapon Powers did not sign the 1963 Treaty. Since 1977 the Soviet Union, United Kingdom and United States have been holding negotiations on a comprehensive ban.

Other steps called for include:

- Cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems;

- Cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, and of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

- Agreement on a "comprehensive, phased programme" for nuclear disarmament. Such a programme would seek the progressive and balanced reduction of stockpiles of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their complete elimination. If possible, the programme should set agreed periods of time during which each phase of reductions would be carried out.

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- Effective arrangements to provide assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States that they will not be threatened or attacked with nuclear weapons. The nuclear-weapon Powers have made unilateral statements concerning their assurances to non-nuclear-weapon countries, but many UN Members would like the assurances to be put into legally binding form, perhaps through a treaty.

Non-Proliferation: It is imperative to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons, the Assembly said. At the same time, all States should be free to acquire technology, equipment and materials for peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

The Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968 has been ratified by more than 100 countries which have undertaken not to receive, manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons. Some countries with nuclear potential, however, have not signed the Treaty.

Strategic Arms Limitation: The Assembly said the SALT II talks between the USSR and United States "should be followed promptly by further strategic arms limitation negotiations between the two parties, leading to agreed significant reductions, and qualitative limitations on strategic arms".

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones: Establishment of such zones constitutes an important disarmament measure. The Assembly encourages these efforts and calls upon the nuclear-weapon Powers to respect the nuclear-free status of such zones.

The main accord achieved so far is the Treaty of Tlatelolco prohibiting nuclear weapons in Latin America. Other zones where nuclear weapons have been banned by treaty are the Antarctic, outer space and the sea-bed.

The Assembly has called on all States to respect the continent of Africa and surrounding islands as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, in keeping with the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted in 1964 by the Organization of African Unity (OAU).

Proposals also have been made for nuclear-weapon-free zones in South-Asia, the Middle East, Central Europe and the South Pacific, as well as for "zones of peace" in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

The use of chemical and biological methods of warfare was outlawed by the Geneva Protocol of 1925, which the Assembly has repeatedly urged all States to ratify. The Geneva Protocol, however, did not ban production or stockpiling of such weapons.

For many years, the UN sought an agreement to ban both biological and chemical weapons. Eventually (1971) agreement was reached on a separate convention concerning only biological weapons -- a genuine disarmament treaty, because it calls for the actual destruction of existing weapons, as well as prohibiting their development, production and stockpiling.

The aim now is to take similar action in regard to chemical weapons. A major problem in negotiations has been the difficulty in verifying compliance with a ban on development and production. Bilateral negotiations between the United States and USSR, under way since 1976, have not yet produced a draft convention, but the two countries reported to the Committee on Disarmament in July 1979 that agreement had been reached on a number of elements.

The complete prohibition of development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons is one of the most urgent tasks for multilateral negotiations.

CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS

Recognizing that disarmament must involve not only nuclear but conventional armaments, the Assembly called for negotiations on the balanced reduction of armed forces and of conventional armaments, "based on the principle of undiminished security of the parties with a view to promoting or enhancing stability at a lower military level".

The world arms trade, in which a few countries supply weapons to a growing number of recipient countries, was also (for the first time) the subject of Assembly Action: It urged that consultations be carried out among major arms suppliers and recipient countries on the limitation of all types of conventional weapons.

The Assembly also convened a UN Conference to seek prohibitions or restrictions of the use of certain conventional weapons including those which may cause unnecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects (such as napalm and incendiaries, mines and booby traps). The Conference session held in Geneva in September 1979 is expected to be followed by further efforts in 1980 to complete the drafting of agreements covering various types of weapons.

REGIONAL APPROACH

Regional agreements on arms limitation are viewed by the Assembly as one way to work towards general and complete disarmament on a global basis. Nuclear-weapon-free zones or zones of peace are examples of such initiatives. Other examples: the NATO-Warsaw Pact talks on mutual reduction of forces in central Europe, which began in Vienna in 1973; the Helsinki Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe, and the 1974 Declaration of Ayacucho subscribed to be eight Latin American countries which expressed the aim of creating conditions permitting effective limitation of armaments.

DISARMAMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

"The hundreds of billions of dollars spent annually on the manufacture or improvement of weapons are in sombre and dramatic contrast to want and poverty in which two thirds of the world's population live." the Assembly said. The "colossal waste" should be ended and resources released through disarmament should be used to help promote the well-being of all peoples. In view of the relationship between arms spending and the need for development resources, the Assembly has initiated a major study on the link between disarmament and development.

REDUCTION OF MILITARY BUDGETS

Gradual reduction of military budgets on a mutually agreed basis, particularly by nuclear-weapon States and other militarily significant countries, would help curb the arms race and increase possibilities for reallocation of resources.

Since Governments differ in their systems of reporting military expenditures, efforts are being made to develop standardized reporting which would allow international comparison of military budgets, thus providing data relevant to agreements on budget reductions. The Assembly has called for testing of a proposed reporting system.

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The Need for Change: While ENDC and CCD were instrumental in producing some disarmament agreements, no accords were reached on certain major disarmament aims such as a comprehensive test ban, nuclear disarmament, chemical weapons or conventional weapons and forces. ENDC and CCD had used United Nations facilities but were set up outside the framework of the United Nations, under the co-chairmanship of the United States and the USSR. France, although a member, never took part and China was not a member. Many UN Members felt that the chairmanship should be rotated, that a more representative membership was needed and that every effort should be made to encourage the participation of all five nuclear Powers.

Committee on Disarmament: The arrangements welcomed by the Assembly in 1978 for the new Committee on Disarmament were aimed at making the negotiating body "more effective and less removed from the security concerns of the membership of the UN" as Secretary-General Waldheim observed.

The CD's enlarged composition ensures the better representation of different regions and viewpoints. The chairmanship is rotated on a monthly basis, by alphabetical order of countries. The work is conducted by consensus. Non-member countries are able to take part in discussions. In addition to formal meetings (open to the public, unlike meetings of the ENDC and CCD), the CD holds frequent informal meetings which permit more spontaneous discussions.

The CD meets for about four months of the year at the Palais des Nations, Geneva. It does not meet when the Assembly is in session.

The CD's closer relationship with the United Nations is marked by the fact that its Secretary was appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Committee, and serves as his personal representative.

Members of CD: The Committee on Disarmament is open to the nuclear-weapon States and the following 35 others including 21 non-aligned countries and 14 others divided between socialist and Western groups: Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burma, Canada, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ethiopia, German Democratic Republic, Germany, Federal Republic of, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Peru, Poland, Romania, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zaire.

France, which had not joined in the work of the ENDC and CCD, became an active participant in the CD. China did not take its seat as a member in 1979, but followed its work and reserved the right to participate at an appropriate time in the future.

Initial Efforts of CD: In 1979, the CD took up questions of nuclear disarmament and a comprehensive nuclear test ban, chemical weapons, radiological weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, and security assurances for non-nuclear-weapon States.

Other items on its continuing agenda include conventional weapons, reduction of military budgets, reduction of armed forces, disarmament and development, disarmament and international security, collateral measures (including confidence-building measures and verification methods) and a comprehensive disarmament programme.

Disarmament Commission: While the Assembly's First Committee now deals exclusively with disarmament and related matters during the Assembly sessions, the creation of the Disarmament Commission provides a forum for discussion of disarmament proposals when the Assembly is not in session. It is the successor to the Disarmament Commission established by the Assembly in 1952 with limited membership, and later expanded to include all UN Members. The earlier Commission, active in the 1950s, had not met since 1965.

The Commission began its substantive work by outlining elements of the comprehensive programme of disarmament to be elaborated by the CD. It also has on its agenda the following items: "Consideration of various aspects of the arms race, particularly the nuclear arms race and nuclear disarmament, in order to expedite negotiations aimed at effective elimination of the danger of nuclear war", and "Harmonization of views on concrete steps to be undertaken by States regarding a gradual, agreed reduction of military budgets and reallocation of resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries".

Other Methods: The United Nations also encourages bilateral negotiations (e.g. SALT talks) and regional efforts (e.g. Treaty of Tlatelolco, European mutual force reduction negotiations between NATO and Warsaw Pact nations). Special conferences may be convened on specific issues (e.g. the 1979 Conference on excessively injurious conventional weapons). The Assembly plans another special session on disarmament in 1982, and has said that a world disarmament conference should be convened at the earliest appropriate time.

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Fact Sheet No. 4 DPI/656

COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMME OF DISARMAMENT

One of the decisions of the United Nations General Assembly at its special session devoted to disarmament in 1978 was to start work on a comprehensive programme of disarmament -- an agreed framework for sustained international action on specific disarmament measures. The programme, the Assembly said, should encompass all measures advisable to reach the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

The Disarmament Commission composed of all UN Members was given the task of considering the elements of a comprehensive programme of disarmament, to be submitted to the Assembly. The programme will be elaborated by the Geneva-based Committee on Disarmament, which holds its next session early in 1980. It is hoped that the comprehensive programme of disarmament can be adopted no later than 1982, when the Assembly will convene its second special session on disarmament.

General and Complete Disarmament

The goal of "general and complete disarmament under effective international control" has been the ultimate aim of the UN's disarmament efforts since 1959. In the 20 years since that goal was proclaimed, many countries have offered detailed proposals for reductions of armaments in stages, with variations as to which types of arms or forces would be reduced first, numerical limits to be set, timetables and methods of control. Despite discussions in the Assembly, at the Geneva negotiations and elsewhere, no agreements were reached on an all-inclusive plan for disarmament.

Today general and complete disarmament is no longer regarded as an objective to be achieved through a single treaty embodying timetables for all measures of nuclear and conventional disarmament. It is seen as a goal to work towards in the expectation that each specific agreement will lead to another - increasing mutual confidence at each stage and thus adding to the chances of success in the next phase.

What It Means

General and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, the Assembly said, means that States would have at their disposal "only those non-nuclear forces, armaments, facilities and establishment as are agreed to be necessary to maintain internal order and protect the personal security of citizens and in order that States shall support and provide agreed manpower for a United Nations peace force".

Action So Far

Meeting in 1979, the Disarmament Commission outlined elements of a comprehensive programme, envisaged as a package of inter-related measures to be carried out in stages.

The Commission, composed of all UN Members, agreed that the programme in its first stage should give special attention to ending the nuclear arms race and the threat of nuclear war. The programme is to reflect the priorities set by the special session: "Priorities in disarmament negotiations shall be: nuclear weapons; other weapons of mass destruction including chemical weapons; conventional weapons, including any which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects; and reduction of armed forces".

The process to be outlined, the Commission said, should take place in an equitable manner ensuring the right of each State to security, and should take into account the importance of both nuclear and conventional disarmament, as well as "the special responsibility of the States with the largest military arsenals and the necessity for adequate measures of verification".

Proposed Disarmament Measures

The Disarmament Commission has proposed that the comprehensive programme of disarmament should encompass the following disarmament measures:

- Nuclear test ban;

- Cessation of the nuclear arms race in all its aspects and nuclear disarmament, requiring agreements at appropriate stages for cessation of qualitative improvement and development of nuclear weapon systems, cessation of production of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, cessation of production of fissionable material for weapons purposes, and reduction of stockpiles of nuclear weapons and means of delivery, leading to their complete elimination at the earliest possible time;

- Effective international arrangements to assure non-nuclear-weapon States against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons;

- Continuation of the strategic arms limitation (SALT) negotiations between the United States and Soviet Union;

- Further steps to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons;

- Establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones;

- Prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons and their destruction;

- Prevention of the emergence of new types of weapons of mass destruction and new systems of such weapons;

- Prohibition of the development, production and use of radiological weapons;

- Cessation of the conventional arms race;

- Multilateral, regional and bilateral agreements on limitation and reduction of conventional weapons and armed forces;

- Prohibitions or restrictions of use of certain conventional weapons including those which may cause unecessary suffering or have indiscriminate effects, taking into account the results of the September 1979 UN Conference on that subject;

- Consultations among major arms suppliers and recipients on the international transfer of conventional weapons;

- Reduction of military expenditures;

- Verification methods and procedures to facilitate disarmament agreements and create confidence among States;

- Further steps to prohibit military or other hostile use of environmental modification techniques, and to prevent an arms race on the sea-bed and in outer space;

- Establishment of zones of peace.

The Disarmament Commission also wants the programme to cover a number of other measures for confidence-building, relaxation of international tensions, prevention of the use of force, mobilization of world public opinion in favour of disarmament, and reallocation of resources to ensure that disarmament contributes to economic and social development.

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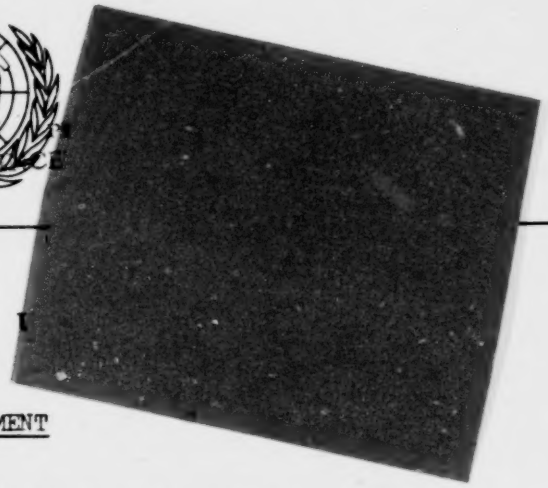

Fact Sheet No. 5 DPI/657

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT

Since nuclear weapons pose the greatest danger to mankind, it is essential to halt the nuclear arms race and take steps towards the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, the General Assembly declared in the Final Document of the special session on disarmament.

Nuclear Weapon Effects: A single nuclear warhead can deliver more destructive power than all the conventional explosives ever used in warfare since the first use of gunpowder.

The two 1945 bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were relatively small, with a yield of no more than 20,000 kilotons -- equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT. Yet they killed more than 100,000 people. Even more suffered severe burns, blast injuries and radiation effects, often resulting in lingering deaths in later months and years.

A single one-megaton weapon (equivalent to 1 million tons of TNT) exploded over a typical city of 1 million people with an area of 250 square kilometres would have these probable results : 270,000 killed by blast and fire, 90,000 killed by fallout, and another 90,000 injured. Two thirds of all buildings would be demolished or badly damaged, roads would be erased, water and gas mains would be destroyed. The city would in effect be obliterated. A single one-megaton blast would reduce it to a sea of blazing rubble.

It has been estimated that in a nuclear war, each of about 400 cities in the Northern Hemisphere might be blasted by the equivalent of 13 megatons -- about 1,000 Hiroshima bombs. Most of the inhabitants would be killed instantly. Civilization would come to an end in the countries involved in the conflict, while elsewhere millions would die from intense and widespread radioactive fallout. Long-term effects on the earth could include changes in climate, reduction of earth's protective ozone layer and severe genetic damage to later generations.

Nuclear Arsenals: Nuclear weapons are deployed by the tens of thousands, and current stocks are sufficient to destroy the world many times over. The strategic arms limitation (SALT) agreements reached by the USSR and United States limited but did not stop the growth of their nuclear arsenals.

Figures reported by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) indicated that the number of missile-deliverable warheads in the strategic arsenals of the United States and USSR increased from about 3,700 in 1970 to nearly 12,000 six years later. The 1978 total has been estimated at 14,000, with the US leading in the number of warheads, the USSR ahead in total explosive power.

These numbers do not include the more numerous "tactical" nuclear weapons deliverable by short or medium-range aircraft, missiles and artillery. Nor do the figures include the much smaller nuclear arsenals of China, France and the United Kingdom.

The total megatonnage now deployed is estimated to be equivalent to over 1 million Hiroshima bombs -- or three tons of conventional explosive for every man, woman and children earth.

Weapon Development: Nuclear weapons development and improvement have involved extensive testing. It is estimated that there have been more than 1,000 test explosions since 1945 -- 90 per cent of them conducted by the United States and USSR.

Delivery systems have become increasingly deadly, with sophisticated guidance and control for pinpoint accuracy in targeting of intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched missiles, cruise missiles -- many of them armed with multiple and independently targetable warheads.

Proposals for Nuclear Disarmament: Nuclear disarmament, the Assembly said at its special session, will require urgent negotiation of agreements at appropriate stages and with adequate measures of verification satisfactory to the States concerned for:

- Cessation of the qualitative improvement and development of nuclear-weapon systems;

- Cessation of the production of all types of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, and of the production of fissionable material for weapons purposes;

- A comprehensive, phased programme with agreed time-frames, whenever feasible, for progressive and balanced reduction of stockpiles of nuclear weapons and their means of delivery, leading to their ultimate and complete elimination at the earliest possible time.

All nuclear-weapon States have been urged by the Assembly to proceed to consultations on initiation of "urgent negotiations" on the above measures.

Related Measures: The Assembly also has called for:

- Further strategic arms limitation (SALT) agreements between the US and USSR that will result in "significant reductions" as well as qualitative limitations on strategic arms.

- Action by the US and USSR to implement the declarations made by Presidents Carter and Brezhnev in 1977 favouring nuclear disarmament.

- Drafting of a treaty to ban all nuclear weapon testing, including underground tests, as "a matter of the highest priority". Since 1977 the US, USSR and United Kingdom have been negotiating on a draft treaty. The Assembly has urged them to conclude the negotiations urgently, so that the Committee on Disarmament can act on a draft treaty at the earliest possible date.

- Security guarantees for non-nuclear-weapon countries, perhaps through an international convention, by which the nuclear-weapon Powers would give assurances that they would not use or threaten use of nuclear weapons against States which do not have them.

- Support of efforts to create nuclear-weapon-free zones. The Treaty of Tlatelolco established a Latin American zone barring the presence of nuclear weapons. Other treaties have outlawed nuclear weapons in the Antarctic, outer space and the sea-bed.

The Assembly has called on all States to respect the continent of Africa and surrounding islands as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, in keeping with the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa adopted in 1964 by the Organization of African Unity (OAU). Proposals also have been made for nuclear-weapon-free zones in South Asia, the Middle East, Central Europe and the South Pacific, as well as for "zones of peace" in the Indian Ocean and South-East Asia.

- Prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons, involving obligations of the nuclear-weapon Powers to achieve nuclear disarmament, and of all States to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. The nuclear-weapon Powers also have been urged not to station nuclear weapons on the territories of States where there are none at present.

Crime Against Humanity: The Assembly has declared that the use of nuclear weapons would be "a crime against humanity" and should therefore be prohibited pending nuclear disarmament.

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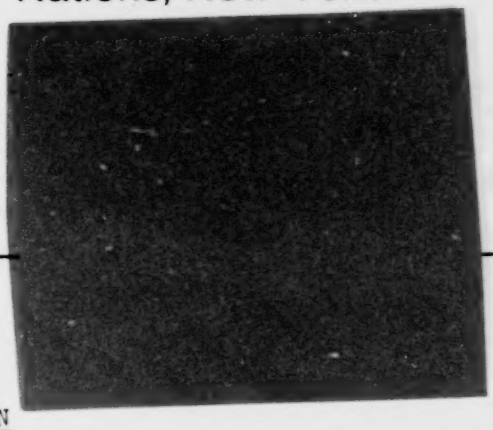

Fact Sheet No. 6 DPI/658

NUCLEAR TEST BAN

For two decades the General Assembly has urged that all nuclear weapon tests be stopped. This would be in the interest of mankind, the Assembly said in 1978, "both as a major step towards ending the qualitative improvement, development and proliferation of nuclear weapons and as a means of relieving the deep apprehension concerning the harmful consequences of radioactive contamination for the health of present and future generations".

Test Figures: Only two atomic bombs were used in war, but more than 1,000 nuclear weapon tests have been carried out since then. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which has counted "known and presumed" tests since 1945, the totals up to the end of 1978 were: United States, 636 tests since 1945; USSR, 398 tests since 1949; United Kingdom, 29 since 1952; France, 76 since 1960; China, 25 since 1964.

The total estimated by SIPRI (1,164) includes a small number of explosions for peaceful purposes (such as excavation or mineral extraction). India conducted what it termed a "peaceful nuclear explosion experiment" in 1974.

Early Concerns: The hazardous radioactive fallout from atmospheric tests caused mounting worry in the 1950s as the world learned of the spread of radioactive nuclides such as strontium-90, caesium-137 and iodine-131, and of mechanisms transferring these substances to body tissues through the food chain -- such as in milk from cows fed on grass contaminated by radioactive rain.

The UN Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation, established by the Assembly in 1955, said that as there were no effective measures to prevent the occurrence of harmful effects of global radioactive contamination from nuclear explosions, the achievement of a final cessation of nuclear tests would benefit present and future generations of mankind.

For information media – not an official record

Partial Test Ban: The United States, United Kingdom and USSR started negotiations on a test ban in 1958. The two sides were unable to agree on the question of providing for adequate verification of underground tests. The Assembly urged them in 1962 to agree on a partial ban if a comprehensive treaty was not possible.

The Partial Test Ban Treaty was signed in 1963 by the three nuclear-weapon Powers involved in the negotiations. They agreed not to conduct any nuclear weapon tests or other nuclear explosions "(a) in the atmosphere; beyond its limits, including outer space; or under water, including territorial waters or high seas; or (b) in any environment if such explosion causes radioactive debris to be present outside the territorial limits of the State under whose jurisdiction or control such explosion is conducted".

The preamble to the Treaty stated that the Parties were determined to continue negotiations to achieve "the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time".

Testing since 1963: Since the Partial Test Ban Treaty, the US, United Kingdom and USSR have conducted tests exclusively underground. France and China, not Parties to the Treaty, continued to conduct tests in the atmosphere, but France announced in 1974 that it was ending its atmospheric tests.

China and France reiterated their positions when the matter was discussed at the 1977 Assembly session. China said it was compelled to conduct limited nuclear tests and develop nuclear weapons entirely for the purposes of self-defence, and that it would be ready to halt such tests only when the two major-nuclear-weapon Powers and all nuclear countries completely prohibited and thoroughly destroyed their nuclear weapons. France stated that cessation of nuclear-weapon tests was not an effective disarmament measure because it would not lead to any reduction in the volume of existing nuclear weapons or even interrupt the development of current and future arms programmes.

Further Agreements: Although underground tests have not ended, the US and Soviet Union have signed two bilateral agreements limiting the size of underground explosions. The Threshhold Test Ban Treaty of 1974 prohibits underground nuclear weapons tests above 150 kilotons. The same limit was set by the Peaceful Nuclear Explosions Treaty, signed in 1976, for individual underground explosions in that category. The agreements also provide for exchange of information and, in certain cases, access to sites of explosions.

Current Negotiations: The US, United Kingdom and USSR began a new round of negotiations on a comprehensive test ban in 1977. At its special session devoted to disarmament, the Assembly said these negotiations on "a treaty prohibiting nuclear-weapon tests, and a protocol covering nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, which would be an integral part of the treaty", should be concluded urgently. Results of the three-Power negotiations should be considered by the Committee on Disarmament, the Assembly said, with a view to submission of a draft treaty "at the earliest possible date".

In July 1979, the three States engaged in negotiations reported to the Committee on Disarmament that a large measure of agreement had been reached. Details on the verification arrangements and other points were still being negotiated.

Verification Issue: There was no major problem concerning the verification issue relating to tests in the atmosphere or under water, since such tests were detectable by national technical means. With regard to underground tests, however, a key issue continued to be whether it is possible not only to detect the seismic waves produced by underground explosions but also to distinguish them from earthquakes. The Soviet Union maintained that any suspected violation could be adequately verified by "national means" combined with such international measures as the exchange of data on seismic events, rather than "on-site" inspections. The United States view was that on-site inspections remained essential to identify events of a relatively low magnitude, despite considerable progress in identifying seismic events.

In 1976 the USSR submitted a revised draft treaty which included a provision for the possibility of on-site inspection by invitation: If "appropriate grounds" are cited in support of the need for such an inspection, a State Party which may be the object of doubts regarding its compliance "may take a favourable position regarding the carrying out of an inspection in its territory, provided it finds the grounds convincing, or it may take another decision". The US welcomed this proposal as a positive development.

In their report to the Committee on Disarmament in July 1979, the US, USSR and United Kingdom said they had agreed on the main elements of verification; the treaty should provide for verification by national technical means and for the possibility of on-site inspection, they stated. Negotiations were still proceeding on the detailed arrangements, involving many technical issues that required time to negotiate.

The detection and identification of seismic events is being studied by the Committee on Disarmament. Its expert group on seismic detection has proposed establishing a global network of about 50 seismic observatories, and international data centres for processing of the information. The group is developing methods for experimental testing of the proposed seismic network. The US, United Kingdom and USSR have agreed that exchange of seismic data would be an important part of verification.

The Assembly's Appeal: Gravely concerned over the fact that nuclear-weapon testing "has continued unabated against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of Member States", the Assembly called again for a test ban in 1978. It urged the drafting of a treaty "as a matter of the highest priority".

Pending the conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty, the Assembly called on all States "to refrain from conducting any testing of nuclear weapons and other nuclear explosive devices".

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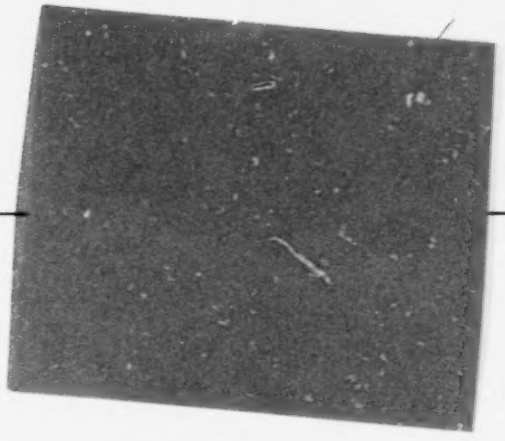

Fact Sheet No. 7 DPI/659

CHEMICAL WEAPONS

The conclusion of a convention to prohibit the development, production and stockpiling of all chemical weapons is "one of the most urgent tasks of multilateral negotiations", the General Assembly declared at its 1978 special session devoted to disarmament.

Chemical Weapons in World War I: Chemical weapons were used in World War I. According to official reports gas casualties numbered about 1,300,000, of which about 100,000 were fatal. The agents used were much less toxic than those which could be used today (such as nerve agents).

The rapid scientific and technological advances in the past few decades have increased the potential of these chemical agents to such an extent that they could cause far more casualties than conventional warfare.

Types of Chemical Agents: Nerve agents are colourless, odourless, tasteless chemicals of the same family as organophosphorous insecticides. They poison the nervous system, disrupt vital body functions, and kill quickly. Blister agents, which caused many of the chemical weapon casualties of World War I, are oily liquids which burn and blister the skin and also have general toxic effects. Choking agents irritate and severely injure the lungs, and blood agents produce death by interfering with utilization of oxygen by the tissues.

Tear and harassing gases are sensory irritants which cause temporary flow of tears, skin and respiratory irritation, and occasionally nausea and vomiting; they are widely used as riot-control agents as well as in war. Psycho-chemicals are intended to cause temporary mental disturbances. Herbicides poison or dessicate the leaves of plants, causing them to lose their leaves or die. Some are also toxic for man and animals.

Expert Report: A UN expert group on chemical and biological weapons, reporting in 1969, said: "Were these weapons ever to be used on a large scale in war, no one could predict how enduring the effects would be and how they would affect the structure of society and the environment in which we live. This overriding danger would apply as much to the country which initiated the use of these weapons as to the one which had been attacked".

Any country could develop a capability in this type of warfare, the expert group said. "The momentum of the arms race would clearly decrease if the production of these weapons were effectively and unconditionally banned".

Geneva Protocol: International outrage over the use of toxic gases in World War I led to agreement on the prohibition of the use of chemical and bacteriological weapons in the Geneva Protocol of 1925.

The Geneva Protocol prohibits "the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials, or devices", as well as "the use of bacteriological methods of warfare". The Protocol did not prohibit development, production or stockpiling of such weapons.

In 1969 the General Assembly declared as contrary to the generally recognized rules of international law, as embodied in the Protocol, the use in international armed conflict of (a) any chemical agents of warfare -- chemical substances, whether gaseous, liquid or solid -- which might be employed because of their direct toxic effects on man, animals or plants; and (b) any biological agents of warfare -- living organisms, whatever their nature, or infective material derived from them -- which were intended to cause disease or death in man, animals or plants, and which depended for their effects on their ability to multiply in the person, animal or plant attacked.

Prohibition of Biological Weapons: In the 1950s and 1960s, the question of chemical warfare was usually discussed in conjunction with biological weapons. Proposals were made for a single convention to outlaw both types of weapons.

Eventually it was agreed that a convention on biological weapons could be agreed upon without waiting any longer for solution of the more difficult problems concerning chemical weapons. The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction was opened for signature in 1972. It entered into force in 1975, and by the end of 1978 had been ratified by 80 countries.

Parties to the Convention undertake never to develop, produce, stockpile or otherwise acquire (1) biological agents or toxins that have no justification for peaceful purposes and (2) weapons, equipment or means of delivery designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict.

Each State Party also agreed to destroy or divert to peaceful purposes all of the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment and means of delivery covered by the Convention. It was the first multilateral agreement providing for destruction of weapon stocks.

A conference to review the implementation of the convention will be held in Geneva in March 1980.

Priority Goal: Following the agreement on a separate convention outlawing biological weapons, the Assembly has continued to urge that a ban on chemical weapons be negotiated as a priority matter. A number of proposals, including draft conventions, have been submitted and discussed, but no agreement has been reached so far.

Issues: Discussions on a chemical weapons convention have centred on such questions as the scope of prohibitions, how to determine whether a chemical substance could be considered a chemical warfare agent, whether a convention should seek a comprehensive ban or a step-by-step approach beginning with the most lethal agents, and how to verify compliance with prohibitions and with requirements for destruction of stockpiles.

Various criteria have been suggested to specify activities and substances that might be prohibited. One criterion is that of purpose or intention: a lethal chemical agent having no peaceful use would be banned. Production of a substance in quantity could indicate a non-peaceful purpose and form a criterion for a ban. Other criteria suggested concern the degree of verifiability, types of effects or chemical properties.

One problem lies in the fact that many chemical substances with peaceful applications may also have a potential use as a warfare agent. An example is phosgene, manufactured in quantity for use in making herbicides and insecticides, plastics and pharmaceuticals. Another complicating factor is the existence of binary chemical weapons -- in which the combination of separate, relatively non-toxic chemical components may produce a toxic compound.

US-USSR Negotiations: A joint US-USSR communique in 1974 announced their agreement to consider a joint initiative "with respect to the conclusion, as a first step, of an international convention dealing with the most dangerous, lethal means of chemical warfare". Bilateral negotiations were initiated in 1976. In July 1979 the two countries reported to the Committee on Disarmament on the progress of their talks. They had agreed that:

- A convention should prohibit development, production and stockpiling of super-toxic lethal chemicals, other lethal or highly toxic chemicals or their precursors, and chemical munitions or other means of chemical warfare.

- The only exceptions would be chemicals intended for permitted purposes and of such types and in such quantities as were appropriate to those purposes. (Permitted purposes were understood to include industrial, research or medical uses, law enforcement, and development and testing of protection against chemical weapons).

- Parties to the convention would be required to declare their stocks of chemical warfare agents covered by its provisions, and would have to destroy their stockpiles or divert them for permitted purposes within 10 years after ratifying the convention.

- Adequate verification was necessary and should be based on a combination of national and international measures. Procedures for requesting on-site investigation would be included.

The US-USSR negotiations were continuing on issues not resolved.

General Assembly's Aim: The General Assembly said in 1978 that a chemical weapons agreement "should meet the objective of complete, effective and verifiable prohibition of the development, production and stockpiling of chemical weapons, as well as providing adequate methods of verification for the destruction of the stockpiles".

The Committee on Disarmament was asked to undertake negotiations on such a treaty or convention "as a matter of high priority". Some CD members have said the Committee should proceed with its own work on a chemical weapons convention even while the bilateral effort continued.

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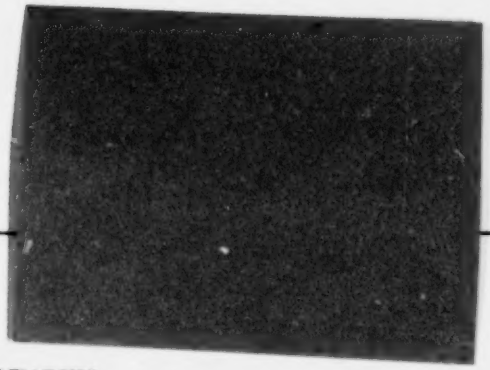


Fact Sheet No. 8 DPI/660

HUMANITARIAN RESTRICTIONS ON WEAPONS

Attempts to stop the use of certain weapons considered too cruel in their effects began long before the modern era, and have continued in the name of the laws of humanity. Humanitarian restrictions also serve the cause of disarmament. A United Nations conference has begun to draft rules to prohibit or restrict the use of certain weapons.

Types of Weapons: Today's arsenals include a number of conventional weapons whose effects may be particularly cruel or indiscriminate, often striking not only combatants but civilians. Among such weapons are land-mines and booby-traps, napalm and other incendiaries, new types of small-calibre arms and projectiles capable of causing extensive wounds, and blast and fragmentation devices which inflict injury by fragments not detectable by X-ray. In the case of mines and booby-traps, there is also a danger of explosion long after a conflict if they are not located and destroyed.

Early Efforts to Curb Specific Weapons: The St. Petersburg Declaration of 1868 stated that the general aim of fighting was to put enemy soldiers out of action and that injuries should not needlessly aggravate the sufferings of disabled soldiers and make death inevitable. Introduction of the "dumdum" bullet a few years later aroused public opinion. As a result The Hague Conference of 1899 formulated a rule prohibiting the use of bullets that expand or flatten in the body.

Further rules restricting or prohibiting use of certain weapons (poison or poisoned weapons, asphyxiating gases, discharge of projectiles and explosives from balloons, underwater contact mines) were elaborated at The Hague Conferences of 1899 and 1907. The 1925 Geneva Protocol renewed the ban on use of poison gases as well as prohibiting the use of analogous materials and bacteriological methods of warfare.

Discussions in the 1970s: The current UN effort to develop agreements on certain conventional weapons originated in 1971, against the backdrop of the war in Indo-China. The General Assembly, considering the question of respect for human rights in armed conflicts, referred to the need for developing "legal restraints and restrictions on certain methods of warfare and weapons that have proved particularly perilous to civilians".

For information media - not an official record

The UN Conference: Representatives of 81 countries took part in the first session of the UN Conference, held in Geneva in September 1979. The three-week meeting focused on the drafting of two protocols: one concerning land-mines and booby-traps and the other on incendiary weapons. Although no final agreements were reached, some progress was made (particularly on mines and booby-traps). The Conference also began formulating a general ("umbrella") treaty to serve as the framework for protocols concerning specific weapons.

Following is a summary of the status of the Conference's work:

Land mines and booby-traps: The draft protocol prepared by a Conference working group would prohibit the use of such weapons directed against civilians, as well as "indiscriminate use" against a military objective which might cause incidental killing or injury of civilians "which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated". Restrictions would be imposed on use of such devices in populated areas.

"Remotely delivered" mines (delivered by aircraft, artillery, rocket, mortar, etc.) would be prohibited even for use against military objectives, unless their location can be accurately recorded or they are fitted with self-actuated or remotely controlled neutralizing mechanisms to render them harmless later.

After the cessation of active hostilities, the parties would seek agreement on provision of information and assistance needed to remove mines and booby-traps or render them ineffective.

The Working group agreed on some rules for keeping records of minefields, mines and booby-traps, and on certain obligations to provide such information after the cessation of active hostilities. No agreement was reached on a proposed requirement for a party to a conflict to make public information about location of minefields in parts of its own territory occupied or controlled by an adverse party.

The draft protocol also would prohibit the use in any circumstances of certain booby-traps -- including any booby-trap in the form of an apparently harmless portable object specifically designed and constructed to detonate when disturbed or approached, and booby-traps attached to or associated with such objects as sick or dead persons, animals, medical facilities, toys, food or drink, historic monuments, places of worship and internationally recognized protective emblems.

Incendiary Weapons: In the pre-Conference work, there was general agreement on the need to prohibit use of such weapons directed against civilians and, in certain circumstances, to ban or restrict their use against military objectives located within a concentration of civilians. The extent of restrictions or prohibitions remains to be agreed upon.

The Conference working group on this topic was unable to agree on the main provisions, and submitted alternative versions of rules to be applied; several delegations offered other proposals. Some countries favour a total prohibition on the use of incendiary weapons, while others would permit certain use against military objectives. The question of restricting use against combatants also remains unresolved.

Small-Calibre Weapons: The Conference called for further research on the wounding effects of small-calibre bullets and projectiles; welcomed the convening of an international scientific symposium on wound ballistics to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, in late 1980 or 1981; and appealed to all Governments "to exercise the utmost care in the development of small-calibre weapon systems, so as to avoid an unnecessary escalation of the injurious effects of such systems".

Weapons Injuring by Fragments Not Detectable by X-Ray: Unanimous agreement was reached in the pre-Conference discussions that use of such weapons should be prohibited.

Further Work: The Conference recommended that the Assembly convene a second session in Geneva in September 1980 to work out agreements on the outstanding issues.

-o- October 1979.

United Nations

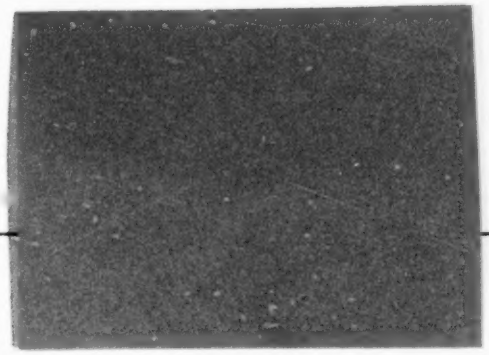
Press Release

Department of Public Information
Press Section
United Nations, New York

DPI/661

DISARMAMENT FACT SHEETS

Prepared by the Centre for Disarmament in cooperation with the Information Service, United Nations Office at Geneva.



Fact Sheet No. 9 DPI/661

COSTS OF THE ARMS RACE

The arms race wastes resources, diverts economies away from constructive purposes, hinders development efforts, and blocks progress towards a new international economic order.

World Military Spending today is in the range of $400 billion a year -- or over $1 billion every day. Since World War II, direct costs of the arms race have exceeded $6,000 billion ($6,000,000,000,000) -- about as much as the combined Gross National Product of the entire world in 1975.

A report prepared in 1977 by a United Nations expert group* gave these details:

On average, countries have been devoting 5 to 6 per cent of their output to military ends.

If half the funds spent on armaments throughout the world from 1970 to 1975 had been invested in the civilian sector, annual output at the end of the period could have been perhaps $200 billion larger than it was -- more than the aggregate GNP of Southern Asia and the mid-African region, two large regions of acute poverty with a total population over 1 billion.

Every year military activities throughout the world absorb a volume of resources equivalent to about two-thirds of the aggregate gross national product of countries comprising the poorest half of the world's population. World military expenditure over the past half century has increased in real terms by a factor of 10, corresponding to an annual increase of nearly 5 per cent.

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*Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures (A/32/88/Rev.1, UN Publication Sales No. E.78.IX.1).

For information media - not an official record

Six countries -- the United States, Soviet Union, China, France, United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany -- account for about 75 per cent of world military spending, 90 per cent of military exports, 95 per cent of exports of major weapons to developing countries, and 96 to 97 per cent of all research and development for military purposes.

Developing countries with almost 50 per cent of the world's population accounted for only 12 to 13 per cent of world military expenditure, and the poorest regions spent about $5 per capita for military purposes -- only 1 to 2 per cent of what the highly industrialized countries' spend per head of population. But arms budgets of developing countries, while small in the global context, loom larger and larger in relation to their limited resources and to their urgent social and economic needs.

Military expenditures in developing countries doubled in constant prices over five years, rising from $17.0 billion in 1970 to $33.8 billion in 1975.

Although half a billion people are severely malnourished and per capita food production in developing countries as a whole has been declining, the poorest countries spend on average about as much for military activities as they spend on agricultural investment.

Figures reported in 1979 by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) indicated that in the 1970s three countries had accounted for 82 per cent of supplies of major weapons to Third World countries -- United States (39 per cent), USSR (32 per cent) and France (11 per cent).

Manpower: The armed forces around the world totalled approximately 22 million people, the 1977 expert group said. It was estimated that for the world as a whole 60 million people are engaged in military-related occupations, uniformed or civilian, public or private. This corresponds to the entire labour force in manufacturing in Europe outside the USSR or to 70 per cent of total employment in the United States in all branches of activity.

The number of draftsmen required for the design of a World War II bomber was on the order of 170 man-years, spread over 2 to 3 years; the design of a military aircraft today requires 4,000 man-years over a period of 7 to 10 years.

Research and Development: About 25 per cent of the world's scientific personnel are engaged in military-related pursuits. It has been estimated that of the total cumulative research and development (R and D) spending since the Second World War, some 40 per cent has been directed at achieving military ends. Together the six main military spenders are reported to account for over 96 per cent of world military R and D. Military research and development in the world absorbs perhaps 10 times the entire scientific and technological capabilities available in developing countries.

Use of Resources: The world's armed forces are major consumers of a wide range of non-renewable resources, both energy and raw-material reserves. World military consumption of liquid hydrocarbons (excluding petroleum products used in the production of weapons and equipment) has been estimated to be about 700 to 750 million barrels annually -- twice the annual consumption for the whole of Africa and approximately 3.5 per cent of world consumption.

Jobs and Arms: There is still a widespread belief that disarmament or discontinuation of some specific weapons programme would swell the ranks of the jobless, particularly when unemployment is already high. In fact, the growing high-technology component in military expenditures has eroded their job-creating potential. There is evidence that high military budgets contribute to over-all unemployment instead of alleviating it. The United States' Government estimates have indicated that while $1 billion of military expenditure creates 76,000 jobs, the same amount released in tax cuts would create 112,000 jobs.

Examples of military vs. civilian costs:

- $500,000 is the cost of one tank -- or equipment for 520 classrooms.

- $20 million is the cost of one jet fighter -- or 40,000 village pharmacies.

- $100 million is the cost of one destroyer -- or electrification for 13 cities and 19 rural zones with a population of 9 million.

- In two days the world spends on arms the equivalent of one year's budget for the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Development Aid: Limited disarmament steps or budgetary cuts to date do not appear to have resulted in any "disarmament dividend". In fact, official development assistance declined from 1970 to 1975 even though military budgets of the main spenders diminished slightly in real terms during that period.

Studies by expert groups, carried out in response to General Assembly requests, have demonstrated the harmful effects of military spending and the economic and social benefits that could result from disarmament measures. They have recommended that Governments make plans to assist in conversion from military to civilian production, and have emphasized that reductions in military spending would help rather than hurt national economies.

The comprehensive expert report on these issues submitted to the General Assembly in 1977 said that as long as the arms race is allowed to continue, it will aggravate world problems of development, economic imbalance and inflation, pollution, energy and raw materials, trade relations and technology, and delay progress in areas such as health, education and housing. The Group recommended the adoption of a specific time-schedule for gradual but substantial co-ordinated reduction of budgets, first of all of those of the largest and most heavily armed countries, specifying criteria and proportions for these reductions and ensuring that they are irreversible and that the means saved are in fact allocated for peaceful purposes.

Current Study: In view of"the relationship between expenditure on armaments and economic and social development and the necessity to release real resources now being used for military purposes to economic and social development in the world, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries", the special session of the Assembly initiated a major study of the relationship between disarmament and development.

The expert group set up to carry out the Assembly's request is expected to report on the results of the study before the 1981 Assembly session. It has commissioned a number of research projects, which are being conducted by institutes and researchers in all parts of the world. Three main areas are being investigated: present utilization of resources for military purposes; economic and social effects of a continuing arms race and disarmament measures; and conversion and redeployment of resources from military to development purposes. The Assembly said a principal aim of the study should be "to produce results that could effectively guide the formulation of practical measures to reallocate those resources at the local, national, regional and international levels".

Disarmament and Development: The hopes of the General Assembly have remained the same since it adopted its 1962 Declaration on the Conversion to Peaceful Needs of the Resources Released by Disarmament. The Declaration called on countries to develop plans and policies for making economic and social adjustments in successive stages of disarmament, bearing in mind the imperative needs of the developing countries. In later years, the General Assembly repeatedly urged that funds released through disarmament be made available for assistance to development, and beginning in 1973 declared that such funds should be provided by reducing military budgets.

In the Final Document of its special session on disarmament, the Assembly stated : "The hundreds of billions of dollars spent annually on the manufacture or improvement of weapons are in sombre and dramatic contrast to the want and poverty in which two thirds of the world's population live. This colossal waste of resources is even more serious in that it diverts to military purposes not only material but also technical and human resources which are urgently needed for development in all countries, particularly in the developing countries. Thus, the economic and social consequences of the arms race are so detrimental that its continuation is obviously incompatible with the implementation of the new international economic order based on justice, equity and co-operation. Consequently, resources released as a result of the implementation of disarmament measures should be used in a manner which will help to promote the well-being of all peoples and to improve the economic conditions of the developing countries".

-o- October 1979.

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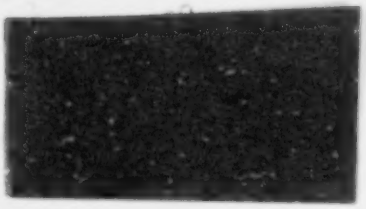
Press Section
United Nations, New York



DPI/662
Fact Sheet No. 10/Rev. 1

INFORMATION MATERIALS AND DOCUMENTS ON DISARMAMENT

The United Nations and various specialized agencies have issued a number of publications and other information materials concerning disarmament. Following is a list of some of the materials available.

Books:

The United Nations and Disarmament 1945-1970, Sales No. 70.IX.1 (515 pages, clothbound). Also exists in A, C, F, R, S*

The United Nations and Disarmament 1970-1975, Sales No. E.76.IX.1 (267 pages, clothbound). A, C, F, R, S

The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook - Vol. I: 1976, Sales No. E.77.IX.2 (310 pages, clothbound) A, C, F, R, S

The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook - Vol. II: 1977, Sales No. E.78.IX.4 (365 pages, clothbound) A, C, F, R, S

The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook - Vol. III: 1978, Sales No. E.79.IX.2 (535 pages, clothbound) E

The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook - Vol. IV: 1979, Sales No. E.80.IX.6 (481 pages, clothbound) E

Status of Multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements Special Supplement to the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook Volume II: 1977 (Sales No. E.78.IX.2) (144 pages, paperbound). (Contains texts of agreements and lists of States Parties. Other five language versions will be available in the near future)

Basic Problems of Disarmament (Contains the 1970 Report on Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament and the first two reports listed below) Sales Nos. E.70.I.14, E.70.I.17 (265 pages, paperbound) F, S

*A: Arabic, C: Chinese, F: French, R: Russian, S: Spanish

Les communiqués sont destinés à l'information; ils ne constituent pas des documents officiels
For use of information media; not an official record

80-48302

Reports:

Effects of the Possible Use of Nuclear Weapons and the Security and Economic Implications for States of the Acquisition and Further Development of These Weapons: Report of the Secretary-General transmitting the study of his consultative group (A/6858) Sales No. E.68.IX.1 (76 pages, paperbound) F, S

Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons and the Effects of their Possible Use: Report of the Secretary-General (A/7575/Rev. 1) (S/9292/Rev. 1) Sales No. E.69.I.24 (100 pages, paperbound) F, R, S

Disarmament and Development: Report of the Group of Experts on the Economic and Social Consequences of Disarmament 1972 (ST/ECA/174) Sales No. E.73.IX.1 (37 pages, paperback) F, S

Napalm and Other Incendiary Weapons and all Aspects of their Possible Use: Report of the Secretary-General 1972 (A/8803/Rev. 1) Sales No. E.73.I.3 (63 pages, paperbound) F, S

Comprehensive Study of the Question of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in All its Aspects - Special Report of the Conference of the Committee on Disarmament 1976 (A/10027/Add.1) Sales No. E.76.I.7 (98 pages, paperbound) F, S

Reduction of Military Budgets-Measurements and International Reporting of Military Expenditures: Report Prepared by the Group of Experts on the Reduction of Military Budgets - Report of the Secretary-General 1977 (A/31/222/Rev.1) Sales No. E.77.I.6 (60 pages paperbound) F, S

Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and Military Expenditures - Updated Report of the Secretary-General 1978 (A/32/88/Rev. 1) Sales No. E.78.IX.I (90 pages, paperbound) F, R, S

Final Document of Assembly Session on Disarmament: 1978 (pamphlet) (OPI/618) F, S

Text of Treaties:

Treaty on The Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 1969 (OPI/324) (67 pages, paperbound) F, S

The Partial Test Ban Treaty: 1963 (OPI/502) F, S

Treaty on the Prohibition of the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and other Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof: 1971 (pamphlet) (OPI/437) F

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons: 1975 (pamphlet) (OPI/372) F

Convention on the Prohibition of Military or any other Hostile Use of Environmental Modification Techniques: 1978 (pamphlet) (OPI/610) F, S

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction (pamphlet) (OPI/462) F, S

(Texts of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, the Outer Space Treaty, the Treaty of Tlatelolco and the Antarctic Treaty are included in the Status of Multilateral Arms Regulations and Disarmament Agreements - Special Supplement to the United Nations Disarmament Yearbook 1977)

Background Papers Prepared by the Secretariat:

The following documents are available for consultation at the Research and Reference Collection of the Centre for Disarmament:

Tabulation of proposals contained in the working papers submitted to the Preparatory Committee concerning the final document(s) of the special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament (A/AC.187/93/Rev.1 and Corr.1). A, C, F, R, S

A synthesis of the arguments adduced for and against each of the four proposals for the creation of nuclear-weapon-free zones that have been included in the General Assembly's agenda (Africa, South Asia, the Middle East and the South Pacific) and for and against the proposal for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean, including a subject and country index (A/AC.187/70). A, C, F, R, S

A comprehensive study of the origin, development and present status of the various alternatives proposed for the prohibition of the use of nuclear weapons (A/AC.187/71). A, C, F, R, S

An analytical summary of the United Nations studies describing the effects of the possible use of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, bacteriological (biological) weapons and napalm and other incendiary weapons, as well as those dealing with the reduction of military budgets, with the economic and social consequences of the arms race and disarmament and with the relationship between disarmament and development (A/AC.187/72). A, C, F, R, S

A list of disarmament and related proposals officially submitted to the United Nations (A/AC.187/75 and Corr.1 and Corr.2). A, C, F, R, S

A comparative study of global military expenditures and development assistance since 1945 as stated in available official and unofficial sources (A/AC.187/73). A, C, F, R, S

A brief synopsis of disarmament and arms limitation negotiations since 1945 - including their results - carried out within the framework of the United Nations, on a regional basis, or bilaterally, with indication, where appropriate, of the procedures followed to keep the United Nations informed (A/AC.187/67). A, C, F, R, S

A comparative study of the scope originally proposed or aimed at in draft multilateral disarmament treaties of a universal character concluded under United Nations auspices and the scope finally fixed in those treaties, including the contemplated measures for expanding that scope (A/AC.187/68). A, C, F, R, S

A comprehensive study of official proposals or declarations made and decisions taken by the General Assembly on the procedure of unilateral or negotiated moratoria as a provisional measure for the prohibition of nuclear-weapon tests, as well as their application by any state (A/AC.187/69). A, C, F, R, S

Other Publications:

The Arms Race and Development, 1978 (Pamphlet) (CESI.E57) F, S

Conference of Non-Nuclear Weapon States ... A search for greater security and access to nuclear power for development: 1968 (Pamphlet) (OPI/340) F

The Dangers of Chemical and Bacteriological (Biological) Weapons, 1969 (Pamphlet) (OPI/373) F

Disarmament Fact Sheets - Brief reports on disarmament problems and related United Nations recommendations and negotiations, prepared by the Centre for Disarmament in co-operation with the Department for Public Information F, R, S

Disarmament: The Need for Intensified Efforts - Background Papers: 1977 (Pamphlet) (OPI/584) F, S

Disarmament - A periodic review by the United Nations:
- Vol. I, No. 1, May 1978. Sales No. E.78.IX.3 (74 pages, paperbound);
- Vol. I, No. 2, October 1978. Sales No. E.78.IX.5 (106 pages, paperbound);
- Vol. II, No. 1, May 1979. Sales No. E.79.IX.1 (77 pages, paperbound);
- Vol. II, No. 2, October 1979. Sales No. E.80.IX.1 (96 pages, paperbound);
- Vol. III, No. 1, May 1980. Sales No. 80.IX.4 (95 pages, paperbound);
- Vol. III, No. 2, July 1980. Sales No. 80.IX.5 (97 pages, paperbound).

Disarmament: Progress towards peace: 1974 (OPI/500) Sales No. E.74.I.23 (47 pages, paperbound) F, S

Economic and Social Consequences of the Arms Race and of Military Expenditures - Questions and Answers: 1977 (Pamphlet) (OPI/594) F, S

The Fires of War: Napalm and Other Incendiary Weapons: 1973 (Pamphlet) (OPI/488) F, S

Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones: 1977 (OPI/585) (27 pages, paperbound) F, S

Offprint of Monthly Bibliography (Part II): Selected Articles on Disarmament, Peace and Security (available from the Centre for Disarmament, Geneva Unit, Research and Reference Collection) Multilingual

Sea-Bed - A Frontier of Disarmament: 1972 (Pamphlet) Sales No. E.72.I.10

United Nations General Assembly: A Guide to the Final Document of the Special Session on Disarmament: 1978 (Pamphlet) (OPI/619) F, S

The United Nations and Outer Space: 1977 (OPI/583) (41 pages, paperbound) F, S

The United Nations Versus the Arms Race. DPI, New York, 1980 (117 pages, paperbound).

IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)

A Short History of Non-Proliferation. 1976 (50 pages, paperbound) F, R, S

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

The UNESCO Courier, A Window Open on the World: The Arms Race. April 1979 (Available in six official languages plus 14 other language versions)

The UNESCO Courier, Disarmament Education: A Farewell to Arms? No. 9, September 1980.

UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund)

School-kit No. 6(Revised version): Disarmament and the Child, an approach to peace education. Contents include teacher's notes and suggestions for classroom activities, fact sheets, a background article on peace education and a UNICEF reprint on the implications of basic services. Produced in English and French, the kit is available at $5.00 or equivalent from national committees for UNICEF and bulk supplies at $4.00 from UNICEF Office for Europe, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

Disarmament Posters:

United Nations Centre for Disarmament Poster: "Mankind Must Choose: Halt the Arms Race or Face Annihilation - United Nations Disarmament Week 24-30 October 1980". Available in E, F, S, and without text.

United Nations Photo Sheet No. 79: graphic wall sheet showing the current state of the arms race and disarmament (DPI)

UNICEF is also offering a special disarmament poster, designed and donated as a contribution to the International Year of the Child by the famous Swiss artist Hans Erni. It is available from national committees for UNICEF or from the UNICEF Office for Europe, at approx. $1.00 or equivalent, in English, French, German and without text.

IYC (International Year of the Child)

IYC/Ideas Forum Supplement/26: Children and Peace Awareness (six page tabloid with articles on disarmament education and related topics) F

UN Audio-Visual Materials

"Nuclear Countdown": 28 minutes, in colour. The nuclear arms race, with its inherent threat of ultimate disaster, is the greatest peril the world faces today. The film traces the history and current status of the nuclear arms race, documents continuing international efforts at control, and explains the dangers of both vertical and horizontal proliferation. F. S

"Booom": 11 minute animated cartoon film which won first prize in the short-subject category at the 1979 Cannes Film Festival.

"No More Hiroshima": 5 minute vignette film in colour on disarmament. Over 30 years after the dawn of the nuclear age, disarmament remains the dominant issue of our world and was the theme of the Tenth Special Session of the U.N. General Assembly in 1978.

(Some of the publications listed above also have been issued in other languages)